



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - November 25, 2003

- ***In the West***, unfavorably dry weather has returned to areas experiencing long-term, hydrological drought, including the ***Great Basin*** and ***Southwest***, following a promising start to the winter wet season earlier this month. Significant precipitation remains confined to the ***Northwest***, maintaining wet conditions ***west of the Cascades*** but providing beneficial moisture for winter grains, especially in ***eastern Washington***.
- ***On the Plains***, a shallow snow cover exists from ***Montana southward into northwestern Kansas and eastern Colorado***, providing winter wheat with beneficial moisture and some protection from lingering cold weather. Although cloudiness is overspreading the ***southern High Plains*** in advance of a developing storm system, dry conditions persist. The ***southern Plains***' dryness favors late-season summer crop harvesting but is hindering winter wheat establishment.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snow covers ***northern and western portions of the region***, increasing supplemental livestock feeding requirements. Meanwhile in ***Lower Michigan***, final corn harvesting is being delayed by snow cover atop soggy fields.
- ***In the South***, cold weather is slowing the growth of pastures and winter wheat. Freezes were noted as far south as the ***central Gulf Coast region***, where this morning's low temperatures in ***Louisiana's sugarcane areas*** generally ranged from 28 to 32 degrees F. However, the cold weather is not expected to adversely affect ***Louisiana's*** sugarcane crop, which is more than two-thirds harvested.

Outlook: Cool, dry weather will prevail in the ***East*** through Wednesday. However, a return to wet weather is expected on Thanksgiving Day, when rain will quickly overspread the ***East*** in advance of a storm developing in the ***lower Mississippi Valley***. Meanwhile, fast-moving disturbances will trigger periods of rain and snow across the ***Pacific Northwest, northern Rockies, and northern High Plains***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for November 30 - December 4 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Delta, Ohio Valley, lower Great Lakes region***, and much of the ***West***. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal conditions will prevail across the ***northern and central Plains*** and the ***southern Atlantic region***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast in the ***South*** and ***East***, while colder-than-normal weather is expected on the ***northern Plains*** and from the ***Rockies westward***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>